

Daily Digest

Highlights

The House received the United States Association of Former Members of Congress in the House Chamber.

The House passed H.R. 2361, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5453–S5549

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1076–1089, S. Res. 149–151, and S. Con. Res. 35. **Pages S5531–32**

Measures Passed:

Baltic Countries Occupation: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 35, expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation should issue a clear and unambiguous statement of admission and condemnation of the illegal occupation and annexation by the Soviet Union from 1940 to 1991 of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. **Pages S5547–48**

Victims of Communism Memorial: Senate agreed to S. Res. 150, expressing continued support for the construction of the Victims of Communism Memorial. **Page S5548**

Recognizing Israel's Independence Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 151, recognizing the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel. **Pages S5548–49**

Nomination Considered: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Richman Owen, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. **Pages S5453–S5525**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at 9:30 a.m., on Friday, May 20, 2005. **Page S5549**

Nomination Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of Edmund S. Hawley, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,

and Transportation and that further, upon the reporting out or discharge of the nomination, that the nomination be referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for a period of not to exceed 30 days, after which time, the nomination, if still in the Committee, will be discharged and placed on the executive calendar. **Page S5547**

Messages From the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency protecting the Development Fund for Iraq and certain other property in which Iraq has an interest, and the Central Bank of Iraq, and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–11) **Page S5531**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2005 Comprehensive Report on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–12) **Page S5531**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Edmund S. Hawley, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general. **Page S5549**

Messages From the House: **Page S5529**

Measures Referred: **Page S5529**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Page S5529**

Measures Read First Time: **Page S5529**

Executive Communications: **Pages S5529–31**

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S5532–33
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S5533–47
Additional Statements: Pages S5527–29
Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S5547
Authority for Committees to Meet: Page S5547
Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:52 p.m. until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, May 20, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5549.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: EPA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Steven L. Johnson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

REGULATION NMS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded hearings to examine Regulation National Market System (NMS) designed to strengthen our national market system for equity securities, focusing on recent market developments, after receiving testimony from William H. Donaldson, Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee continued markup of proposed comprehensive energy legislation, focusing on provisions relating to Energy Efficiency and Electricity, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again on Tuesday, May 24.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water concluded an oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the Endangered Species Act (Public Law 93–205), focusing on successes and shortcomings of the Act, and possible improvements to ensure species protection in the future, after receiving testimony from Senator Crapo; Craig Manson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; James H. Lecky, Senior Advisor for Intergovernmental Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-

ministration, Department of Commerce; Robin M. Nazzaro, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; John F. Kostyack, National Wildlife Federation, Jamie Rappaport Clark, Defenders of Wildlife, and Monita Fontaine, National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition, all of Washington, D.C.; and Reed Hopper, Pacific Legal Foundation, Sacramento, California.

IRAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded hearings to examine weapons proliferation, terrorism and democracy in Iran, after receiving testimony from R. Nicholas Burns, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; and Geoffrey Kemp, The Nixon Center, Gary Milhollin, Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, George Perkovich, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Abbas William Samii, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, all of Washington, D.C.

Also, committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on weapons proliferation, terrorism and democracy in Iran from officials of the intelligence community.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Philip J. Perry, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Warner, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Carolyn L. Gallagher, of Texas, who was introduced by Senator Cornyn, and Louis J. Giuliano, of New York, who was introduced by Senator Warner, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, and Tony Hammond, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission, who was introduced by Senator Bond, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

AMERICAN WORKFORCE

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee met to discuss issues relating to higher education and corporate leaders, focusing on defining the roles industry and institutions of higher education will have to ensure that the United States has